

Northern Marin
Community Advisory Committee Recommendations
Draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan

School Access Element

General Comments and Recommendations:

- The School Pool ridesharing program should be funded as part of the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program.

Recommendations for Criteria Evaluating Projects and Programs:

- None.

Recommendations for Illustrative Examples of Projects of Local Significance:

- Examples of local priorities include:
 - Crossing Guard program
 - SR2S capital bicycle and pedestrian improvements developed in cooperation with the City Engineer

Recommended Funding Allocation: **12%** – The committee recognizes that School Access issues are important to voters. Within Novato, crossing guards and SR2S capital safety improvements are higher, long-term priority projects. However, as an ongoing program, the committee feels that Safes Routes to School may not need full funding over the life of a sales tax measure and that school transit services could be provided through the Local Transit category. Also, the committee wanted to preserve a larger allocation of funds for the more flexible Local Return category. Accordingly, the committee decided to fund this category at a mid-point of the range recommended by the Joint Committee.

Local Streets and Roads Element

General Comments and Recommendations:

- The Joint Committee must positively market this category to educate residents on the need and benefits of this element and distinguish it from any local road bond measures (e.g., Novato Measure B, which passed in 2000).

Recommendations for Criteria Evaluating Projects and Programs:

- Eligible projects should complement priorities of local road bond measures.

Recommendations for Illustrative Examples of Projects of Local Significance:

- The long list of Roadways of Countywide Significance should be amended to:
 - Add Olive Avenue
 - Remove Glen Road
 - Add Bugeia Lane/Bahia Drive
 - Add Center Road
 - Add Sutro Avenue
- The short list of Roadways of Countywide Significance should be amended to:
 - Add Atherton Avenue
 - Change Novato Boulevard to Novato Boulevard/South Novato Boulevard

Recommended Funding Allocation: **25%** – Though the committee recognizes the need for Local Streets and Roads funds, it is concerned that this category may not resonate with voters as well as other categories. Recent editorials on the “pothole tax measure” emphasized this concern. In addition, Novato voters passed a local road bond measure in 2000 and voters now may question the need for additional funds. Accordingly, the committee decided to fund this category at the low end of the range recommended by the Joint Committee.

Local Transit Element

General Comments and Recommendations:

- A portion of Local Return funds should be used to enhance Local Transit programs and projects for local shuttles (e.g., Novato jitney and EZ rider services).

Recommendations for Criteria Evaluating Projects and Programs:

- Eligible projects should be evaluated against criteria, such as:
 - Improvement to local mobility, especially the transit-dependent population
 - Seamless connectivity to all modes
 - Flexibility in type of vehicles and routing

Recommendations for Illustrative Examples of Projects of Local Significance:

- Examples of priorities include:
 - Physical improvements to bus stops, such as bike racks, lockers, lighting, shelters, public pay phones, and access improvements, to encourage alternative modes to transit and enhance security and safety
 - Coordination and connection of the Novato EZ Rider and Hamilton Shuttle services
 - Local shuttles for seniors and youth that connect to the Margaret Todd Senior Center and area schools
 - Local shuttles that serve remote areas, such as Bel Marin Keys

- Providing a guaranteed ride home incentive for transit users
- Accessible taxis to enhance paratransit services
- A local transit hub, accessible by all modes of travel, which allows easy and quick transfers

Recommended Funding Allocation: **40%** – The committee recognizes the importance of local transit services for managing congestion and the need to address forthcoming impacts from future service reductions. Accordingly, the committee agrees with the Joint Committee that the majority of the funds should be allocated to the Local Transit category.

Local Return Element

General Comments and Recommendations:

- The Local Return Element is critical to energizing voters' interest in the Expenditure Plan.
- Local Return funds must be specifically and clearly restricted to transportation projects and programs, yet the selection process and project type categories should be flexible enough to reflect changing priorities over the life of the sales tax measure.
- Local Return projects should be determined every 2 to 5 years through a public process that includes a local advisory committee that will oversee all local sales tax expenditures. These committees will be advisory to the local City and Town Councils who must approve the local plans.

Recommendations for Criteria Evaluating Projects and Programs:

- Local transportation projects that provide local benefits should be the priority.

Recommendations for Illustrative Examples of Projects of Local Significance:

- Funds could be used to augment other Expenditure Plan elements. Examples of priorities include:
 - Novato jitney (highest priority)
 - Novato EZ rider service
 - Local traffic flow and control measures that enhance circulation and safety (e.g., a traffic signal at the eastern Ignacio Safeway driveway intersection with Ignacio Boulevard)

Recommended Funding Allocation: **23%** – The committee thinks that the Local Return category is critical element of all successful tax measures, which provides needed, flexible funds back to communities to be used on local priorities as determined by local committees. Accordingly, the committee decided to fund this category at the high end of the range recommended by the Joint Committee.

Additional Comments and Recommendations for Other Aspects of the Draft Plan:

- Outreach and education are critical components in developing the necessary support for a Transportation Sales Tax ballot measure. The Joint Committee should study and understand outreach and education methods on how to best market the measure and Expenditure Plan.